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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) Magnesium salt of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole in an optical purity of at least about 94% enantiomeric excess.

Claims 2-42 Canceled

2 43. (New) The compound according to claim 1, wherein the optical purity is at least 94% enantiomeric excess.

3 44. (New) The compound according to claim 1 or 43, wherein the compound is in crystalline form.

4 45. (New) Magnesium salt of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole in an optical purity of at least about 98.4% enantiomeric excess.

5 46. (New) The compound according to claim 45, wherein the optical purity is at least 98.4% enantiomeric excess.

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6 47. (New) The compound according to claim ⁴45 or ⁵46, wherein the compound is in crystalline form.

7 48. (New) Magnesium salt of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[⁴(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole in an optical purity of at least about 99.8% enantiomeric excess.

8 49. (New) The compound according to claim ⁷48, wherein the optical purity is at least 99.8% enantiomeric excess.

9 50. (New) The compound according to claim ⁷48 or ⁶49, wherein the compound is in crystalline form.

10 51. (New) Magnesium salt of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[⁴(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole in an optical purity of at least about 99.9% enantiomeric excess.

11 52. (New) The compound according to claim ¹⁰51, wherein the optical purity is at least 99.9% enantiomeric excess.

12 53. (New) The compound according to claim ¹¹51 or ¹¹52, wherein the compound is in crystalline form.